

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or a complement thereof ~~a T-bet protein~~.
2. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 2~~, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, or a complement thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 1~~, which has at least 95% 70% nucleotide identity with at least ~~about~~ 700 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a T-box binding element in DNA.
5. (Currently Amended) An isolated ~~The~~ nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 1~~, which has at least 95% 70% nucleotide identity with at least ~~about~~ 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:3, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a T-box binding element in DNA.
6. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~4~~ 5, which has at least 95% 90% nucleotide identity with ~~at least about 700 contiguous nucleotides of~~ SEQ ID NO:1 over its full length.
7. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~4~~ 5, which has at least 95% 90% nucleotide identity with ~~at least about 500 contiguous nucleotides of~~ SEQ ID NO:3 over its full length.
8. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims claim 1, 6, and 51.
9. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.

10. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 9.
11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.
- 13.-49. (Canceled)
50. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 or 5, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: IFN- $\gamma$  production, Th1-associated cytokine production, and Th1 cell differentiation.
51. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO.:1 in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a T-box binding element in DNA.
52. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO.:3 in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a T-box binding element in DNA.
53. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least about 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a T-box binding element in DNA.
54. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, 6, or 51, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

55. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a fragment of at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO.:1 or a complement thereof.

56. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a fragment of at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO.:3, or a complement thereof.

57. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 55 or 56, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.

58. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 700 bases which is complementary to SEQ ID NO.:1.

59. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 51, comprising nucleotides 1-900 of SEQ ID NO.:1.